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## RY-DAY LIFE braham Lincoln.

By FRANCIS F. BROWNE. [COPYRIGHT, 1886, BY BROWNE.]

Early in 1862, Mr. Lincoln began giving more of his personal attention to military affairs. He was dissatisfied with the slow progress and small achievements of our armies, and sought to infuse new zeal and energy into the Union commanders. He also began a thorough study of the great military problems pressing for solution; and seemed resolved to assume the full responsibilities of his position, not only as Navies of the United States. In this he was influenced by no desire for personal control of, or interference with, the commanders in the field; he always preferred to leave them the fullest liberty of action. But he felt that the situation demanded a single head, ready and able to take full responsibility for the most important steps; and, true to himself and his habits of a lifetime, he neither sought responsibility nor flinched from it.

The leading officers of the Union army were mostly young and inexperienced, and none of them had as yet developed the capacity of a great commander. At the best, it was a process of experiments, to see what Generals and what strategic movements were most likely to succeed. And in order to be able to judge correctly of measures and of men, Mr. Lincoln undertook to familiarize himself with the practical details of military affairs. The plain country lawyer, unversed in the art of war, was suddenly transformed into the great civil ruler and military chieftain. "He was already," says Mr. Riddle, "one of the wariest, coolest and most skillful managers of men. A born strategist, he was now rapidly mastering the great outline ideas of the art of war.'

UNEQUALLED IN MILITARY SAGACITY,

dignity of his deportment, so different whose views he felt himself compelled to for you?" from the clownish manners with which it yield." was then customary to invest him. His EFFORTS TO PUSH FORWARD THE WAR. face was a pleasant surprise, formed as my expectations had been from the poor photographs then in vogue, and the general

ing how much betterlooking he was than I had anticipated, and wondering that any one should consider him ugly. His expression was grave and careworn, but still enlivened with acheerfulness that gave me instant hope. After a brief interthange of commonplaces, he entered on a lescription of the situation, giving the number of the contending armles, their movements, and the general strategcal purposes which thould govern them both. Taking from the wall a large map of the United States, and laying it on the table, he pointed out with his long finger the geographical features of the vicinity, clearly describing the various movements so far as known, reasoning rigidly from step to step, and creating a chain of probabilities too strong for serious dispute. His apparent knowledge of military science, and his familiarity with the spe-

cial features of the preslaw, and whose attention must necessarily those he held in regard to civil affairs." MR. LINCOLN.

cess for any of the campaigns then being opened. Having gone thus far, and seeing our surprise and perplexity, he seemed animated by a desire to justify his statement. Going to the wall, and again taking down the large map which he had pressed into service on the previous occasion, he self, as he felt compelled to do, with the and burdens of official life, and Mr. Linproceeded to inform us that there were three important movements being attempted by our forces toward points against which our efforts had previously proved unsuccessful. One of these, he said, was here's a letter about some new powder." against Richmond, on the same general He read the letter and showed the sample the civil head of the Government, but as the plan substantially attempted by Burnside; of powder, adding that he had burned opportunity to observe Mr. Lincoln closely. Commander-in-Chief of the Armies and one against Charleston, from the sea, by the combined land and naval forces; and there was too much residuum. "Now I'll Gen. Viele, "I was requested by the Secreone against Vicksburg, by way of the Yazoo Pass and the network of bayous and small streams by which the Mississippi der on it, then went to the fire, and with the ous caution to speak to no one of my moveis flanked, and through some of which it tongs picked up a coal, which he blew. was hoped to transfer Gen. Grant's forces with his speciacles still on his nose; then purpose or intention of the meeting. It to a point from which a successful assault he clapped the coal to the powder, and might be made on that great stronghold, after the explosion, remarked: "There is taneously with the Secretary, who led the which had thus far defled our most determined attacks.

"'I cannot see,' remarked Mr. Lincoln,

'how either of these plans can succeed;'

and forthwith throwing aside all re-

serve, and speaking with as much ap-

military argument, and logically demonstrated in advance that Grant would again powder. be foiled in his strategy against Vicksburg; that Hooker would fail to reach Richmond, gren, "the President sent for me regarding and that Du Pont and Hunter would be compelled to retire, baffled, from before Charleston. I do not now remember the reason he gave for his judgment in regard to the two movements last named, but I ing to an impending battle, for the result narrow and winding water-courses through which Grant was endeavoring to conduct large craft, either through too high or too asked me about the ironclads, and Charles-Says a distinguished Union officer, Gen. low water, and capable of fatal obstruc- ton." And again: "Went to the Depart-Keyes: "The elements of selfishness and tion in the forests which they penetrate, ferocity, which are not unusual with first- by an enemy intimately acquainted with class military chiefs, were wholly foreign every feature of the country, and who had Said they were doing nothing at Charlesto Mr. Lincoln's nature. Nevertheless, proved himself only too well informed of all there was not one of his most trusted war- our movements, and equally active and like counsellors in the beginning of the war who equalled him in military sagacity." his own country. • • • We took our sensible man would do it. He feared the His reliance, in the new duties and perils leave soon after, but I was long haunted favorable state of public expectation would that confronted him, was upon that simple with the recollection of what I had heard. tommon-sense, that native power of judg- My admiration for the man and his high ment and discernment, which were in- moral and intellectual qualities was intuitive with him. "Military science," says creased, and my confidence in our military a distinguished officer, "is common-sense chieftains, never very high previously, applied to the affairs of war." While Mr. was proportionately diminished. As be-Lincoln made no claim to technical knowl- fore, the events justified his prediction. edge in this sphere, and preferred to leave Our attacking forces were beaten off from details to his subordinates, he yet devel- Charleston; the Army of the Potomac was oped an insight into military problems, and hurled back upon the North at Chancellorsan understanding of practical operations ville, and Grant and Porter were comthe field, which enabled him not only pletely baffled in the ill-judged experiment to approve or disapprove, but to direct and in the hostile swamps of Mississippi, which 1862 was relieved by the substantial victhey attempted to penetrate through streams | tories of Gen. Burnside in North Carolina A striking proof of Mr. Lincoln's knowl- too narrow to turn a gunboat in, and sur- and Gen. Grant in Tennessee. The Presiedge of military affairs is given by Mr. J. rounded by a restless foe ever ready to dent was cheered and elated by these suc-M. Winchell, who thus relates what hap- exhaust all the means of impediment and cesses. It is related that Gen. Burnside, pened in a personal interview with the destruction. And though Mr. Lincoln's visiting Washington at this time, called "I was accompanied by one of opinions may have owed their correctness on the President, and that "the meeting Mr. Lincoln's personal friends; and when to accident, yet I could not resist a feeling we entered the well-known reception-room, that he had a strength of brain and sounda very tall, lanky man came quickly for- ness of judgment which measurably supward to meet us. His manner seemed to plied the want of military training, and perfection of courtesy. I was which fitted him better to plan campaigns leave, the President inquired: 'Is there struck with the simplicity, kindness, and than any of the professional soldiers to anything, my dear General, that I can do

> Toward the end of January, 1862, Mr. Lincoln sought to overcome the inertia that

narrates that one day, at this period, "the president drove down to see the 150-pounder behalf of all those who have been brought cannon fired. For the first time, I heard the President speak of the bare possibility reverently invoke the Divine guidance for of our being two Nations—as if alluding to a previous suggestion. He could not see how the two could exist so near each other. He was evidently much worried at our lack of military success and remarked that 'no of the carth. of military success, and remarked that 'no tries of the earth. one seemed ready.""

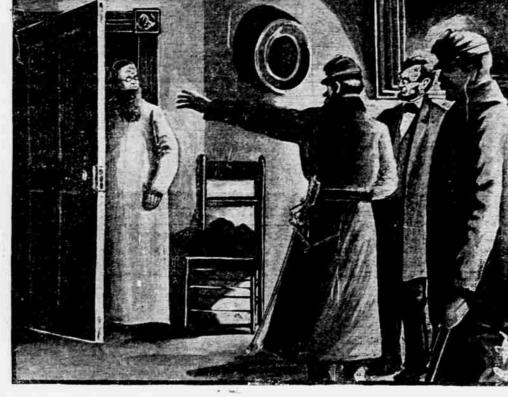
MR. LINCOLN'S WORRY AND PERPLEX-ITY-"POOR GENTLEMAN!"

It is difficult to portray the worry and and the incessant demands upon his attention, in his efforts to familiarize himsome of it and it did not seem a good article; sheet of paper and placed some of the powwell, in this picture of the President of the United States, with all his enormous cares and responsibilities, engaged in such a petty matter as testing a sample of powder. parent frankness as though conversing And yet so great was his anxiety for the with his confidential advisers, he freely success of the armies and navies under his criticised the conduct of the campaigns in control that he wished to become personally question, going into all the details of a satisfied as to every detail. He didn't wish to lose battles on account of bad

"At another time," says Admiral Dahlarmy matters, 'Now,' said he, 'I am to have a sweat of five or six days," (Alludrecollect well his clear description of the of which he was very anxious.) Again: "The President sent for me. Some man in trouble about arms. President holding a his gunboats, generally impassable for breech-loader in his hand. This done, he ment and found the President there. He looks thin and badly, and is very nerv us. ton, only asking for one ironelad after sensible man would do it. He feared the pass away before anything was done. Then he levelled a couple of jokes at the doings at Vicksburg and Charleston." No wonder the sympathetic Dahlgren, witnessing the sufferings of the tortured President, should exclaim: "Poor gentle man! How thin and wasted he is!"

BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS-UNION VIC TORIES IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE.

The gloomy outlook in the Spring of was a grand spectacle. The two stalwar men rushed into each other's arms, and warmly clasped each other for some minutes. When Gen. Burnside was about to 'Yes! yes!' was the quick reply. and I am glad you asked me that question. My three Brigadiers, you know; everything depended upon them, and they did their duty grandly! Oh, Mr. President, we owe so much to them! I should so much love, belief in his ugliness. I remember think. seemed settling upon the Union forces, by when I go back, to take them their pro-



"STANTON HERE BURST IN, HIS EAR CATCHING AS HE CROSSED THE THRESHOLD WOOL'S

LAST WORDS. ent campaign, were surprising in a man issuing the "President's General Order, motions." 'It shall be done! was Mr who had been all his life a civilian, en- No. 1," directing that on the 22d day of Lincoln's hearty response, and on the grossed with politics and the practice of the February following, "a general movement instant the promotions were ordered, and of the land and naval forces of the United Gen. Burnside had the pleasure of taking be so much occupied with the perplexing States" be made against the insurgent back with him to Foster, Reno, and Parke detail of duties incident to his position. forces, and giving warning that "the heads their commissions as Major-Generals." It was clear that he made the various of departments, and especially the Seccampaigns of the war a subject of pro- retaries of War and of the Navy, with all found and intelligent study, forming their subordinates, and the General-inopinions thereon as positive and clear as Chief, with all other commanders and subordinates of land and naval forces, SOME REMARKABLE PROPHECIES BY will severally be held to their strict and full responsibilities for prompt execution of this order." This order, while it doubtless served to infuse new energy into company the served to infuse new energy in the served to infuse new energy in the served to infuse new energy in the served to i At a later period of the war, the writer this order." This order, while it doubtless fust quoted had opportunity to witness a served to infuse new energy into comstill more striking instance of Mr. Lin manders and officials, did not result in coln's far-seeing military sagacity. He any substantial successes to our arms. had occasion to call upon the President. The President, worn by his ceaseless no and the conversation again drifted into a tivities and anxieties, seems to have been military channel. "Presently Mr. Lin-momentarily disheartened at the situation. coln startled us all," says Mr. Wincheil, Admiral Dahlgren, who was in command of the Washington Navy Yard in 1862,

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT. Our brightening prospects impelled the President to issue, on the 10th of April, the following proclamation:

"It has pleased Almighty God to youch afe signal victories to the land and naval fore recommended to the people of the United States that, at their next weekly assemblages in their accustomed places of public worship which shall occur after the notice of this Proclamation shall have been received, they especially acknowledge and render thanks to our Heavenly Father for these inestimable blessings; that they then

into affliction by the casualties and calamities of sedition and civil war; and that the

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

A VISIT TO FORTRESS MONROE. Early in May Mr. Lincoln determined on a personal visit to Fortress Monroe, in perplexity that beset Mr. Lincoln's life, order to learn what he could from his own observation of affairs in that region. The trip was a welcome respite from the cares practical operations of the war. Admiral coln enjoyed it heartily. The Secretary of Dahlgren, who saw him almost daily, War (Mr. Stanton) and the Secretary of the relates that one morning the President sent for him, and said: "Well, Captain, President. A most interesting account of the expedition is given by Gen. Viele, who was a member of the party, and had an "When, on the afternoon of May 4," says show you," said he. So he got a small tary of War to meet him within an hour at the Navy Yard, with the somewhat mysteriments, I had no conception whatever of the was quite dark when I arrived there simulhumorous, but touching and pathetic as a steamer was moored that proved to be the revenue cutter the Miami. We went on board and proceeded at once to the cabin, where, to my surprise, I found the President and Mr. Chase, who had preceded us. The vessel immediately got under way and steamed down the Potomac. \* \* \* After supper the table was cleared, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a general review of the situation, which lasted long into the night. The positions of the different armies in the fletd, the last reports from their several commanders, the some new invention. After the agent of probabilities and possibilities as they apthe inventor left, the President began on peared to each member of the group, together with many other topics, relevant and irrelevant, were discussed, interspersed with the usual number of anecdotes from the never-failing supply with which the President's mind was stored. It was a most interesting study to see these men relieved for the moment from the surroundings of their onerous official duties. The President, of course, was the center of the group-kind, genial, thoughtful, tender hearted, magnanimous Abraham Lincoln. It was difficult to know him without knowing him intimately, for he was as guileles another. The canal at Vicksburg was of and single-hearted as a child; and no man ever knew him intimately who did not recognize and admire his great abilities, both natural and acquired, his largeheartedness and sineerity of purpose. . . He would sit for hours during the

Shakspere's best plays, page after page of Browning, and whole cantos of Byron. His inexhaustible stock of anecdotes gave started, and Mr. Chase remarked, with a leaving Atlanta, that Lincoln was regood deal of seriousness, that he had for- elected. gotten to write a very important letter before leaving. It was too late to remedy the omission, and Mr. Lincoln at once drove the thought of it from his mind by telling him that a man was sometimes lucky in forgetting to write a letter, for he seldom knew what it contained until it with an indiscreet word or expression; and then he told a humorous story of a sad catastrophe that happened in a family, auxious look. That reminded Mr. Stanton of the dilemma he had been placed in, just before leaving, by the receipt of a telegram from Gen. Mitchel, who was in northern Alabama. The telegram was indistinct, Savannah is ours! The rebs have lit out instructions.' 'I suppose you meant,' guns left by the enemy. said Mr. Lincoln, 'that it was all right if it employed to ride the horse backward and gone. forward to exhibit his points. One of the if it isn't good for him he hasn't.' you seem to have left! Gen. Mitchel in. Well, Stanton, I guess he'll come out right but at any rate you can't help him now."

'And that's the position,' said the President, "The President's berth was on the same side of the cabin with mine, and he suggested that, as I had more room than I equired and he had not enough, a movable partition would have been a great convenience; recommended that Mr. Chase should provide some arrangement of this kind in case we took another such trip. . . Mr. Lincoln always had a pleasant word to say the last thing at night and the the first one to awake, although not the principally upon the quarter deck, and the President entertained us with numerous anecdotes and incidents of his life, of the to Northern eyes. most interesting character. Few were aware of the physical strength possesse by Mr. Lincoln. In muscular power he was one in a thousand. One morning, while we were sitting on deck, he saw an ax in a socket on the bulwarks, and taking it up, held it at arm's length at the extremity of the helve with his thumb and forefinger, continuing to hold it there for



Contemporaneous Accounts of Events in the History of the 98th Ohio.

BY THE LATE J. M. BRANUM.

1864.

are singing as lively as though it was bitter toward South Carolina because they Spring. I am out on picket, and have been have been baffled so long at Charleston, bring matters up to date. We lay in our lying about a skirmish pit, reading. I am and are anxious to see our army go in there camp at Cherokee Hills, enduring the rain, only in tolerable good health, owing to the and clean things out.

vessels near Fort Jackson. We met many naval officers, who seem as curious roundings, and every one is enjoying him-NEAR SAVANNAH, Sunday, Dec. 18, and glad to see Sherman's men as we are self and seems happy, gay and careless. to see them, and they treat us of the army | Some are singing, talking or smeking, The day is warm, beautiful, and birds the best they know how. They seem very and making camp lively with their actions.

esting on the river and extending off brough fields, woods and swamp about a mile. To the front (toward Augusta) are the pickets, and in front of them the rebel cavalry. To our rear lay the wagon-trains. Gunboats are on the river, and the Twentieth Corps is overon the South Carona side, having crossed at some point below here. Our division is in a large, level, grassy

field near the edge of a thick pine woods. The weather is clear, and cold enough to freeze thin ice. Blazing camp fires of pine knots and rail fires illuminate the sur-

While affairs are so I will run back and

and at its close the weather changed to cold and wind, and we burned up a great deal of pine in

our efforts to keep warm. We started off last Wednesday. I was feeling very feeble, and it was with difficulty I could jog along. The roads were wet and marshy, and during the halts to repair them I would get enough rest to keep up. In the afternoon we struck the main sand road running straight through the country for mile after mile, and on this road we made good time, camping at night after a 17-mile march.

> ILLNESS OF LIEUT. BRANUM.

In my condition, I felt very despondent, and many advised me not to try further than this place, but I determined to keep with the regiment as long as possible. The next day I felt better. We turned off the main road and marched toward Springfield, a little town, where we camped, having only made six miles, on account of terrible roads. Yesterday and camped at 4 o'clock, our company going on The Fourteenth Corps was reviewed by picket. The scenes on the march have

The main roads that run out of Savannah trip, repeating the finest passages of but a short distance off, concealed for the Sherman was dressed up in his best, and are well-made sand pikes, with brick culverts, and are raised above the swamps, and extend in a straight line for many miles; and looking ahead as we marched. Lieut. McKentey, of Co. A, 98th, came to the long cut through the woods came to us to-day, just escaped from rebel prison a point in the distance, and so looked the at Columbia, S. C. He with 12 of our same, as mile after mile passed beneath men on picket were captured at Chickaus. At intervals, the land rises to slight marching at night, and being aided and fed plateaus, which are dry, and beautiful manga. He was 23 days on his way to us. arms open out. house on a 15 mile march on one road, did not know our army was about, until although the lone chimneys and burned remains of 30 or 40 were left to mark the course of a part of our army to Savannah Savannah, and he turned this way. He six weeks ago. Many of these had been walked over 20 miles last night, when he beautiful homes, and the singed live-oaks came to our pickets, and his heart was

THROUGH A PINE FOREST.

time away.

When we turned from the main road. we had but a dim trace to follow-all was wild forest, thick jungle and swamp. The trees are mostly pitch-pine, tall, and clear of limbs to a great hight. When the land is not wet they grow thin, and a heavy; vellow grass covers the ground, and in bursting shells, in celebration of the New these woods pine knots can be gathered by the wagon-loads for fires. Some times we find a cleared spot in the many dangers and struggles and is fast

and evergreens will no more shelter the

paths where happy children played their

wilderness, where some lone woodsman dwells. He may be a cooper who makes rice tierces, or probably runs a tar-kiln.

will be over, and its records gone into history. These swamps are gloomy enough with Who will say our country is not the better their tall trees, from which gray moss hangs, with thick green laurel and tall reeds growing from the reddish-black will have been quelled, and a gloriously-These cold mornings the water water. patriotic spirit promoted. Many blessings freezes thinly over, and the ice runs into of God and great trials have been sent curious shapes, resembling feathers and on us, and we implore His guidance and the leaves and palm growth that grow in CHEROKEE HILLS, 10 MILES FROM

WADING ICY STREAMS. This road had not been traveled by our

army, and we soon struck forage. Yesterman has been arranging for us, day before day we crossed Ebenezer Creek, and the yesterday. Our corps took the road up the whole command had to wade the cold river, and it is said we will cross into South water three and half feet deep. It was a Carolina 30 or 40 miles above Savannah, severe trial to the troops, and exceeded the After starting, heavy rains set in and affair at Elk River last Fall on the march have continued ever since, and we are com- to Florence, Ala. pelled to lay over here, as the sandy roads

The water was ice-cold, and many were are impassable for trains and some of the taken with cramps and had to be helped over by those on horseback. The swamp was about a mile wide, and the stream in tents trying to keep dry. We have a grand the middle of it. The place was afterwards field of operations ahead of us, and we hope bridged for the teams to cross.

Last night was a gay and festive one for us. After crossing the swamp we marched state of the country looks as hopeful as the three miles, and went into camp at 3 o'clock. most loval of us could expect, and it appears | Our company went on picket, and as soon as though we are steering close to the end as we fixed our sentinels, six men were sent out as foragers, who brought in abundance of eatables. To-day we marched like gay and brilliant military operations, eight miles on the same road over which we traveled to Savannah. We thought many weary days' marching through sand we had cleaned the country out of proand swamp, carrying your heavy load, and visions as we came along then, but many it requires much labor privation and suffer- of the denizens of these parts had rebuilt ing that the newspapers never touch on their fences and bought some hogs and cattle, and in some instances stocks of

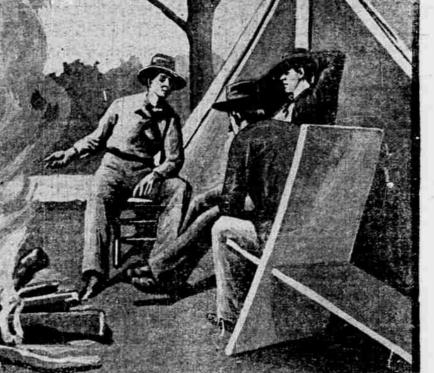
We lay around our fires here and read corn. The gunboat men were out on land today having a great time with the troops. while we cannot deny the main facts, and The river is high, and we expect to be here several days pontooning.

> CAMP 98TH OHIO, SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, FOURTEENTH CORPS, SHERMAN'S ARMY, BRIGH-

TON, S. C., Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1865. This is our first day's march in South Carolina, and the real commencement of our new campaign, and I will write a little every day that I can get a chance, and The present finds us at this place on the mail it on the first opportunity. To better

well to follow a map. Sherman's army consists now of four corps-about 50,000 men. It is divided We are camped in two lines of battle commanded by Gen. Jno. A. Logan, and (the whole Fourteenth Corps), the right the Seventeenth, by Gen. F. P. Blair.

understand our movements, it would be



"BLAZING CAMPFIRES OF PINE KNOTS ILLUMINATE THE SURROUNDINGS, AND EVERYONE We made six miles more IS ENJOYING HIMSELF."

looked considerable of a soldier.

AN ESCAPED PRISONER.

he got hold of a newspaper near Augusta,

and learned Sherman was marching to

almost melted with joy and satisfaction

to find himself in our lines. He came

down the road and fell right in with us;

says he would rather lose his life than

be a prisoner again, and seems as happy

END OF AN EVENTFUL YEAR.

Dec. 31.-The weather is cold. My

health improving. I had a mess of shell

oysters for dinner. Evening lively with

Year. This closes the eventful year of

1864. Our country has passed through

Another year and this great rebellion

A period of wickedness and recklessness

SAVANNAH, Sunday, Jan. 22, 1865.

We started on the new campaign Sher-

We lay all day vesterday under our dog

to work our way through to Richmond

From a distance, our work here looks

but the reality here is different. It takes

the newspaper accounts of our marches.

and of the prospective campaign, and

what we expect to accomplish, we think

if the editors or writers of the articles were

to march with us each carrying his load.

getting wet, going on picket at night in

these swamps or pine forests, with coffee

and stale crackers for supper, they would

SISTERS FERRY, SAVANNAH RIVER,

GA., Saturday Evening, Jan. 28, 1865.

oad over which we traveled to Savannah

not write such glowing accounts.

in their brilliant accounts.

for its great trial by war and fire?

protection another year.

of the war.

as if he were at home.

use of the swamp water-all we can get. Our lines run along a canal through a very Gen. Sherman on Tuesday. I was not been "grand, gloomy and peculiar." swampy country, and the rebel lines are well enough to go along. The boys say

most part by trees, bushes and reeds. I have just changed from reading to writing this to inform you of the arrival of to superficial minds the impression that he the large mail we have been expecting. was not a thoughtful and reflecting man; It came yesterday by sea from New York, whereas the fact was directly the reverse, and it being the first that has reached These anecdots formed no more a part of Sherman's army for many weeks, I was Mr. Lincoln's mind than a smile forms a favored with letters and a haversack full of part of the face. They came unbidden papers, and after eating a dinner of boiled and, like a forced smile, were often em- beef and rice soup, I lay down in the tent ployed to conceal a depth of anxiety in his and read the entire afternoon to post up on own heart, and to dissipate the care that events that have happened since we were weighed upon the minds of his associates, shut off from news. We had received no Both Mr. Chase and Mr. Stanton were particulars of the election before; only under great depression of spirits when we knew from a telegram sent Sherman before

> Monday, Dec. 19.-It is reported that Sherman has demanded the surrender of the city, and we look for something to take place soon that will be of importance to this army.

It is rumored we will advance our lines soon and some hard fighting will have to be appeared again some day to confront him done. I don't see how an advance can be made in our front, as the enemy has an almost impregnable line; swamps are filled with fallen timber, and at the roads which was ascribed to something that and open places they have strong batteries came in a letter—a catastrophe so far be- so placed as to sweep an advancing column yond the region of possibility that it set with grape and canister, and it is with nearing the happy period of peace. us all laughing, and Mr. Chase lost his no comfortable feelings that one rests under, with the possibility of our having to storm such works before we get the city.

SAVANNAH TAKEN. Wednesday, Dec. 21.-Glorious news

and could not be clearly understood: from our front! Such was the word that there was no time for further explanation, rang through camp this morning just as and yet 'an immediate answer was require; we were waking. We could hardly believe so the Secretary took the chances and it, but the boys made haste to find out, answered back: 'All right; go ahead.' and found the rebel forts and works evacu-'Now, Mr. President,' said he, if I have ated. They came back bringing clothing, made a mistake, I must countermand my axes and other articles, and told of the big We have remained here all day, packed

was good for him, and all wrong if it was up ready to move. Many have been into That reminds me,' said he, 'of a the city and report it a fine old place, full story about a horse that was sold at the of citizens and everything in good order. crossroads near where I once lived. The We read in the Confederate papers of Hood's horse was supposed to be fast, and quite a great battle at Franklin and great losses on number of people were present at the time both sides, and we fear many of our friends appointed for the sale. A small boy was in the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps are swamps too deep to cross.

We moved this afternoon nearer the city would-be buyers followed the boy down the road and asked him confidentially if the The weather has turned cold and we have horse had a splint. 'Well, mister,' said the to keep rousing fires to keep warm. Every- by a few mouths' campaigning. The boy, 'if it's good for him he has got it, but thing indicates quiet now until the New Year is ushered in.

> SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 29, 1864. The past few days have been spent in our camps. I have been quite ill. The weather has been quite cold and we huddle around our fires to try to keep warm. In my condition, I can get nothing suitable to eat, and in consequence feel very miserable

My hope of spending Christmas at home was not fulfilled. The war is not over, nor am I at home among the bountiful supply of good things. I would rather have been at home for Christmas than any other day of the year, and think if I ever get there, will never complain of the first thing in the morning. He was always fare. Feil in with George Jepson and others and we visited the city, and find it first to rise. The daytime was spent an interesting place. There is no stone here, and the streets are paved with sand and brick, and they have a strange look

> WITHIN THE CAPTURED CITY. The streets are wide, and some have rows of spreading trees down the center, which is used for a promenade. Down in the best part of the city the buildings are tasty and indicate the wealth of the people

and we are 38 miles from that city. We The harbor is a novel sight to soldiers. are to be here a day or so, and then cross The wharf and docks look dingy, as the the river into South Carolina. I am gratiplace has been so long blockaded by our fled to say I am greatly improved in health, into two armies, called the right and left fleet, but is now brightening up. Our and feel first rate after my late indisposition. wings. The right consists of the Fifteenth. fleet still remains below the city, and all

a number of minutes. The most power